UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/942,592	08/31/2001	Hiroki Uchiyama	212298US2	7449

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>04 October 2005</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle,* 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,12-19 and 21-26* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,12-19 and 21-26* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *31 August 2001* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1.   The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 111.

2.   The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "operation button" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3.   The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly

indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

4.   The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it has more than 150 words.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 1, 2, 12 – 18, and 21 – 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Iwata (US 6778289) and Yoshida (US 6130757).

Regarding claim 1, Iwata teaches **an information input/output system, comprising:**

at least one printer server (M102 and M103, Fig. 6) **configured to connect with an**

Internet and to access information contents on the Internet (acquires web content for printing

from the Internet [E104] as specified by a URL set by user);

at least one printer (M110) **configured to connect with the printer servers** (M110

connected to M102 and M103 as shown in Fig. 6);

a terminal (E102, Fig. 4) **configured to connect with the Internet** (see line from E102

to E104), **to access the information contents on the Internet** (document info request X200/T01

to access the document), **and to transmit printing request data including at least a contents**

ID specifying information contents for printing from among the information contents on

the Internet (T105, print URL – see also Fig. 15), **and a print outputting destination ID**

specifying at least one of the printers and facsimile apparatuses for printing therewith

specified information contents for printing (sends to the specific print server/printer E101 it

wants to print at, thus the ID is set in order to route the request and job to E101, e.g.

printer01.office.fx.co.jp); **and**

a printing request administration server (E103) configured to connect with the

Internet (see line between E103 and E104), **to receive the printing request data transmitted**

from the terminal (X202 travels from the terminal to the server to get the data for printing), **and**

to transmit the printing request data to the at least one of the facsimile servers and printer

servers determined according to the print outputting destination ID (transmits the printing

data, including the content ID [URL information included], destination ID [necessary in order to

route the print data to the print server/printer], and actual content for printing),

wherein each of the printer servers stores information as to the printers connected

with the printer servers (Fig. 6, wherein the printer server and its associated memory must have

information about the image forming unit in order to correctly send the data to it), **and outputs**

the specified information contents for printing to at least one of the printers specified by

the print outputting destination ID (outputs to the printer via M108, Fig. 6), **after converting**

the specified information contents for printing (converting in M109, Fig. 6), **according to**

information corresponding to the at least one of the printers specified by the print

outputting destination ID (M109 renders the data to be printed according to what type of data

the image forming unit M110 receives), **such that the specified information contents for**

printing can be printed by at least one of the printers and facsimile apparatuses specified

by the print outputting destination ID (M110, the printer specified by the user, thus properly

prints out the data from the image rendering unit).

While Iwata teaches a networked system with a device E101 that includes both server and

printer, Iwata does not specifically teach that the device has fax capabilities, thus not teaching a

fax device or fax server or formatting for a fax machine.

Yoshida teaches a networked system (Fig. 1) with a device 1 that includes server, fax,

printing, and copying all in one device (fax 50, server in the CPUs controlling the system [see

col. 4 lines 30-33 and 48-52], printed through 60/62/73/71). This device 1 can act as a fax

server, print server for other devices to connect to and print.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the system of Iwata can

have a plurality of printers/composite devices which can include fax servers and fax apparatuses

as shown in Yoshida. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the user to have

printouts performed at a plethora of devices as well as being able to have the information faxed

or just printed out a fax machine.

Regarding claim 2, which depends from claim 1, the combination teaches that **wherein at**

least one of the printers and facsimile apparatuses is configured to connect with the

terminal so as to receive the printing request data including the contents ID and the print

outputting destination ID transmitted from the terminal and to transmit the printing

request data to the printing request administration server (as shown in Fig. 4 of Iwata, E101,

which the CPU P101 controls the print server and the printer receives the data and sends it to the

administration server E103 for processing), **and when the terminal is connected with at least**

one of the printers and facsimile apparatuses configured to connect with the terminal, the

printing request administration server receives the printing request data from at least one

of the printers and facsimile apparatuses with which the terminal is connected and

transmits the printing request data to at least one of the printers and facsimile servers

determined according to the print outputting destination ID (E103 receives the request from

the E101, and in this case sends the information [now including the print content data] back to

E101 for printing because the print engine M110/P107 is chosen in the destination ID).

Regarding claim 12, Iwata teaches **an information input/output system, comprising:**

printer server (M102 and M103, Fig. 6) configured to connect with an Internet and

to access information contents on the Internet (acquires web content for printing from the

Internet [E104] as specified by a URL set by user);

printer (M110) configured to connect with the printer servers (M110 connected to

M102 and M103 as shown in Fig. 6);

a terminal (E102, Fig. 4) configured to connect with the Internet (see line from E102

to E104), **to access the information contents on the Internet** (document info request X200/T01

to access the document), **and to transmit printing request data including at least a contents**

ID specifying information contents for printing from among the information contents on

the Internet (T105, print URL – see also Fig. 15), **and a print outputting destination ID**

specifying at least one of the printers and facsimile apparatuses for printing therewith

specified information contents for printing (sends to the specific print server/printer E101 it

wants to print at, thus the ID is set in order to route the request and job to E101, e.g.

printer01.office.fx.co.jp); **and**

a printing request administration server (E103) configured to connect with the

Internet (see line between E103 and E104), to receive the printing request data transmitted

from the terminal (X202 travels from the terminal to the server to get the data for printing), and

to transmit the printing request data to the at least one of the facsimile servers and printer

servers determined according to the print outputting destination ID (transmits the printing

data, including the content ID [URL information included], destination ID [necessary in order to

route the print data to the print server/printer], and actual content for printing),

wherein the terminal is provided with a printing button configured to input, when

depressed, an instruction to transmit the printing request data including at least the

contents ID and the print outputting destination ID to the printing request administration

server (D103, Fig. 14, which initiates the transmission of the request including the content and

destination IDs discussed above), and the printing button is separate from an operation

button, which is displayed on the display screen of the terminal within the information

contents being displayed on the display screen and which links, when selected, the printing

request data to the printing request administration server (Go-to button as shown in Fig. 8,

wherein when the button is pressed, the user knows the print request info [the document located

in the server] and wants to know what the URL is of it for printing [col. 5 lines 39-45], thus the

user currently has the printing request information of ABCseminar as shown in Fig. 8 and thus

has not linked that data for printing with it's location on the printing request administration

server E103, thus after linking with the server, the URL of Figs. 15 and 16 is had to use for

printing).

While Iwata teaches a networked system with a device E101 that includes both server and

printer, Iwata does not specifically teach that the device has fax capabilities, thus not teaching a

fax device or fax server or formatting for a fax machine.

Yoshida teaches a networked system (Fig. 1) with a device 1 that includes server, fax,

printing, and copying all in one device (fax 50, server in the CPUs controlling the system [see

col. 4 lines 30-33 and 48-52], printed through 60/62/73/71). This device 1 can act as a fax

server, print server for other devices to connect to and print.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the system of Iwata can

have a plurality of printers/composite devices which can include fax servers and fax apparatuses

as shown in Yoshida. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the user to have

printouts performed at a plethora of devices as well as being able to have the information faxed

or just printed out a fax machine.

Regarding claim 13, which depends from claim 12, the combined system of Iwata and

Yoshida has a **printing button of the terminal comprises at least one of a soft button, which**

is displayed by software at a predetermined position on the display screen of the terminal

(Iwata D103, Fig. 14)**, and a mechanical push-button switch, which is arranged at a part of**

the terminal (Yoshida 96, Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 14, which depends from claim 12, the combination teaches **wherein the**

printing button of the terminal is configured such that when the printing button is

depressed, a part of information stored in the terminal is transmitted to the printing

request administration server (e.g. Fig. 14, wherein if the user selects to print the autumn

report by checking the print box and not the others, only the information [URL] of that content is

sent as content ID, which is part of information stored in the terminal because all three have

information stored at the terminal in order to show in the display).

Regarding claim 15, which depends from claim 12, arguments analogous to claim 14 are

applicable to claim 15 because 'information' can be the 'part of information' of claim 14 – e.g.

the autumn report information discussed above can be the information stored in the terminal sent

to printing request server for retrieval and printing.

Regarding claim 16, which depends from claim 12, the structural elements of apparatus

claim 2 include all of the functionality and elements of apparatus claim 16. Therefore, claim 16

is rejected for reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 2.

Regarding claims 17 and 18, which depend from claims 14 and 15, the combination

teaches **wherein the terminal is configured such that it is selectively determined whether to**

display on the display screen of the terminal the part of information stored in the terminal

which is to be transmitted to the printing request administration server when the printing

button is depressed (the user selects in step T101/X200 what information to request and

therefore display in Fig. 14).

Regarding claim 21, the structural elements of apparatus claim 12 include all of the

functionality and elements of apparatus claim 21. Therefore, claim 21 is rejected for reasons set

forth in the rejection of claim 12.

Regarding claim 22, which depends from claim 21, the structural elements of apparatus claim 13 include all of the functionality and elements of apparatus claim 22. Therefore, claim 22 is rejected for reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 13.

Regarding claim 23, which depends from claim 21, the structural elements of apparatus claim 14 include all of the functionality and elements of apparatus claim 23. Therefore, claim 23 is rejected for reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 14.

Regarding claim 24, which depends from claim 21, the structural elements of apparatus claim 15 include all of the functionality and elements of apparatus claim 24. Therefore, claim 24 is rejected for reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 15.

Regarding claim 25, which depends from claim 23, the structural elements of apparatus claim 17 include all of the functionality and elements of apparatus claim 25 Therefore, claim 25 is rejected for reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 17.

Regarding claim 26, which depends from claim 24, the structural elements of apparatus claim 18 include all of the functionality and elements of apparatus claim 26. Therefore, claim 26 is rejected for reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 18.

6.   Claims 3 and 19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwata and Yoshida as applied to claims 2 and 12 above, and further in view of Kawai et al. (US 6891636) and Hanzawa (US 5506661).

Regarding claim 3, which depends from claim 2, Iwata and Yoshida do not specifically teach collecting fees or storing information about fees.

Kawai teaches **at least one of the printers and facsimile apparatuses configured to connect with the terminal includes a fee collecting device configured to collect a fee for printing therewith the specified information contents for printing** (12 is a fee charging device for a printing system).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to charge users for printing in the systems of Yoshida and Iwata. The motivation for doing so would have been to recoup money spent on the associated consumables of printing as well as maintenance and other costs associated with printing. Also, the system of Kawai presents a feature of letting a user have an advertisement in their print job in order to decrease cost, which is a further benefit of using the system of Kawai.

The combination does not specifically teach storing information of collecting the fee at a central location.

Hanzawa teaches a system of storing information of collect fees for usage of systems (see Figs. 10-12).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to manage the fees and printing in a system so that whoever is running the system knows how much money they are making as well as how the system is doing as far as consumable use etc. The motivation for knowing this information is to be able to make business decisions based on it, including rate changes and other business decisions.

Regarding claim 19, which depends from claim 16, the structural elements of apparatus claim 3 include all of the functionality and elements of apparatus claim 19. Therefore, claim 19 is rejected for reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 3.

Conclusion

7.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure. Ohta (US 2001/0029531) teaches wireless remote printing system and method.

Maniwa (US 5933584) teaches network system for unified business.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Lucas Divine whose telephone number is 571-272-7432. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, David Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Lucas Divine
Examiner
Art Unit 2624

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ljd

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER